(b) whether any steps are contemplated in the recent Employment Guarantee Act to reduce the gender bias in employment and wage payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Under NREGA, wages are being paid on Task Rate Basis. The out turn of a worker is measured and wages are paid to the workers in accordance with the out turn norms fixed by the State Governments.

(b) NREGS is demand driven. Adult members of all rural households having job cards are entitled to get employment under the Act for doing unskilled manual work on demand subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days in a financial year. In para 6 of Schedule-II of the Act, it has been provided that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act also provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

748. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) designated to upgrade rural infrastructure in the country has not yet been commissioned;

(b) if so, the reasons and details in this regard; and

(c) what are the budgetary support demands for PMGSY for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANT PATIL): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in December, 2000 as a 100% Centrally Funded Scheme. The Programme aims at providing connectivity by all-weather roads to unconnected habitations with population of 500 and above in plain areas and 250 and above in hilly, desert and tribal areas. Along with new link, upgradation of existing rural through roads is also being allowed for upgradation on the concept of Associated Through Route and will be treated as an adjunct to New Connectivity for ensuring total connectivity from Farm to Market. Upto January, 2008, connectivity to 43847 habitations have been provided and construction of 146374 km of road has been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 28543 crore.

(c) For the financial year 2008-09, outlay Rs. 14530 crore has been provided including Rs. 7000 crore from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (N AB ARD) as per the 11th Five Year Plan proposal submitted by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Planning Commission, a requirement of Rs. 16000 crore has been projected for 2009-2010.

Identification of persons who qualify for BPL status

749. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether media reports about the death of an indigent person in Bhabnava Village, Sitapur District of U.P., highlights the failure of the authorities to identify genuine people

who qualify for BPL status and PDS programme and that Central assistance worth crores of rupees, aimed at providing relief to such people, hardly trickles to them;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to inquiry into the whole system so as to fix responsibility for the wanton and systemic lapses and plug loopholes and strengthen the systems; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) the Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that the death of Shri Majeed S/o Shri Abdullah of Bhabnava village in Sitapur District on 25.1.2008 which was reported in the press has been investigated by the State Government. After investigation it was found that the person died of prolonged illness whose treatment was going on in the Community Health Centre. The State Government has reported that the death was not due to starvation.

The guidelines issued by this Ministry for idenfication of BPL rural households already include the provision for redressal of public grievances through a two-stage appeal mechanism. Any person having grievance regarding omission or non-inclusion of his/her name in the BPL list can file first appeal with the Tehsildar/SDM as the case may be and if still not satisfied second and final appeal can be filed with the Collector. A time-frame has been prescribed for disposal of such appeals.

Implementation of NREGS in Kerala

750. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in which NREGS is implemented in the State of Kerala;

(b) the beneficiaries identified in the last two years, district-wise;

(c) the number of employment/wages given; and

(d) the assets created in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is presently implemented in 4 districts *viz.* Palakkad, Wayanad, Idukki and Kasargod in the State of Kerala.

(b) and (c) The district wise number of beneficiary households provided employment and the amount of wages given to them during the last two years in the State of Kerala is as under: